

Master Plan update, budget development timelines occupy HECB at Pullman meeting

The Washington Higher Education Coordinating Board held its regularly scheduled meeting May 13, 2010, at Washington State University in Pullman.

In 2011, the Board and the state's two- and four-year higher education institutions are required to revise the 10-year *Strategic Master Plan for Higher Education*, endorsed by the Legislature in 2008. The Legislature will consider the revised plan in its 2012 session. The Board approved a tentative timeline for the update. [View the timeline.](#)

Biennial budget approval process set

The Board is required to adopt operating and capital budget recommendations for the state's public higher education institutions by October and November 2010 respectively.

The Board is scheduled to hear institutional operating budget presentations September 16, at Highline Community College in Des Moines, and to vote on them at its October 20 meeting at Gonzaga University in Spokane. A vote on capital budget recommendations will be held at the Board's November 16 meeting at WSU Vancouver. [View the timeline.](#)

WSU research programs spur new businesses

Cutting-edge Washington State University research programs in global health, clean technology, genetically modified crops, and food processing technology hold great promise for commercialization and long-term reward. But the odds of developing a breakthrough business are formidable, Keith Jones, director of the Office of Intellectual Properties and executive director of WSU's Research Foundation, told Board members. [Read more.](#)



Executive Director's Report

Don Bennett, interim executive director, briefed the Board on year-end performance of the Guaranteed Education Tuition (GET) Program. GET enrollment, now closed, will reopen September 15, 2010. See www.get.wa.gov for more information.

Bennett also discussed state budget and finance issues related to higher education recently on TVW. [View the program.](#)

HECB staff provided the following reports:

- [2010 higher education policy legislation](#)
- [2010 supplemental budget](#)
- [2010 supplemental budget impact on financial aid policy](#)

New Degree Programs

B.S. in Actuarial Studies

Central Washington University won approval for a proposal to convert an Actuarial Science Specialization within the B.S. in Mathematics degree into a stand-alone B.S. in Actuarial Science beginning fall 2010. [Read more.](#)

B.A. in Sustainable Urban Development

The University of Washington Tacoma won approval for a Bachelor of Arts in Sustainable Urban Development beginning in fall 2010. The degree will prepare students for careers in planning agencies, environment/resource-related agencies, corporations, consulting firms and not-for-profit organizations. [Read more.](#)

Board recognizes Andrew Helm for service

The Board adopted a resolution recognizing Andrew Helm, a WSU Doctor of Pharmacy candidate, for his year of service as the board's student member.



A new student Board member is being sought. Interested students can apply through the Governor's Boards and Commissions Office. The new student member can begin serving a one-year term as soon as officially appointed. [To apply.](#)

Academic progress reports

Reports tracking the numbers and types of new degrees being approved and data on off-site enrollments, were presented at the Board meeting.

Number of STEM degrees continues to rise

The Higher Education Coordinating Board approved 12 new degree programs at the state's baccalaureate institutions from March 2009 to March 2010. Five of these were in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

The five STEM programs and their institutions of origin:

- UW Bothell – B.S. in Electrical Engineering, M.S. in Computing and Software Systems.
- UW Tacoma – B.S. in Information Technology and Systems.
- UW Seattle – Master of Geographic Information Systems, Master of Pharmaceutical Bioengineering. [Read more.](#)

In addition, staff approved 12 locational extensions of existing programs designed to serve nearly 500 FTE students. Four of the extensions are primarily distance delivery and eight use centers and teaching sites at a total of five different locations.

New program enrollments generally strong

Overall enrollment in the 84 degree programs approved by the HECB between 2004 and 2009 totaled 2,219 in the 2008-09 academic year. This was within 10 percent of the total projected enrollment, staff reported.

Most new programs met their enrollment targets. Fifteen were well below projections and seven substantially exceeded projections. Two of the under-performing programs are being eliminated. Institutions have plans to address the remainder of under-enrolled programs. [Read more.](#)

College admission standards being fine-tuned

The HECB is developing additional revisions to its Minimum College Admission Standards to address course alignment with the State Board of Education's new CORE 24 high school graduation requirements, credit for college testing, and alignment with national standards.

Randy Spaulding, director of academic affairs, gave a status report on college admissions standards work at the May meeting.

Several Board members agreed closer alignment of high school graduation requirements and college admissions standards continues as a high priority. [Read more.](#)



Research Brief

Native American students in Washington attend more than 40 postsecondary institutions and participate in college at a rate greater than their proportional presence in the population.

They are just as likely to apply for and receive financial aid as other groups and a little less likely to borrow to attend college. They also experience a greater gap than other groups in what they can afford to pay and the total cost of college.

These are some of the findings reported in a new HECB Research Brief. Rachelle Sharpe, associate director of Student Financial Assistance and a co-author of the Research Brief, reported the findings to the Board.

HECB staff also presented the research findings at a session of the Pathways Conference held in SeaTac on Feb. 18, 2010.

The Pathways Conference was the culmination of a larger study on Native American Students funded by several national organizations with recommendations on how to improve access to higher education for Native American students.

[Read the research brief.](#)

[View the PowerPoint.](#)